

FOI3521

8th January 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question 1:

In your Community Mental Health division, is there a specific age range you specify for eligibility to Adults of Working Age services and Older Adult services – if so, what are the age ranges that are stipulated?

-Or do you operate an all-adult/ageless service i.e. 18+?

-Or do you offer a needs-led service, and if so, can you describe how this operates?

Response:

Southern Health and Social Care Trust Mental Health Services operate on a needs-led model rather than strict age-based criteria.

The Older People's Mental Health Service and the Adult Community Mental Health Service is delivered on the basis of assessed clinical need and is not defined solely by an age threshold (e.g. over 65 years)

Adult Community Mental Health Services provide support to young people approaching adulthood, including

- Individuals aged 17 years and 6 months who are transitioning from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS); and
- Individuals aged 17 years and 9 months referred via the single point of access.

Need led decision making is supported through a structured assessment process that aligns with Nice Guidance, the You in Mind Regional Mental Health Care Pathway, and the Integrated Elective Access Protocol.

Individuals complete a You In Mind mental health assessment, following which a collaborative decision is made regarding the most appropriate service to meet their identified needs. This may include the Community Mental Health Team, Older People's Mental Health Team, or another appropriate service.

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